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July 6, 2000

Mr. Masatomo Suguira Suguira Patent Office No. 420, Sankyo Building 25 48-10, Higashi Ikebukura 1-chome Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170 Japan

> Re: U.S. Patent Appln. No.: 09/424,684 Client Reference No.: S99P0312US00 Our Reference No.:7246/57889

Dear Mr. Suguira:

In keeping with standard practice in Sony Corporation cases, we have prepared and filed a Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application and enclosed please find a copy of that Preliminary Amendment.

In this Preliminary Amendment we made editorial changes to the specification and amended the claims to place them in better condition for examination.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement we now have filed in connection with this application together with copies of the cited references.

As soon as we have anything further to report in regard to the above-identified application, we shall promptly advise you.

Best regards.

Jav H. Maiol

JHM/rp Enclosure



## 7246/5788 RECEIVED IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

KIYOFUMI INANAGA

JUL 13 2000

Serial No.:

09/424.684

TC 2700 MAIL ROOM Examiner: No Examiner

Filed:

November 29, 19999

For:

AUDIO REPRODUCING APPARATUS

Date:

July 7, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir: Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application. X No Additional fee is required. The fee has been calculated as shown below. This is an application of a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9(f), and the amounts shown in parentheses apply. Total Claims in excess of \_\_\_\_\_ previously paid for, at \$22 (\$11) \_\_\_\_\_ Ind. Claims in excess of \_\_\_\_\_ previously paid for, at \$82(\$41) \_\_\_ Additional Fee for this Amendment This Response is being filed within the \_\_\_\_ first month, \_\_\_\_ second month, fourth month following the expiration of the term ordinarily set therefore, and applicant Petitions for an extension and the fee of \_\_\_\_\_ \$110(\$55), \_\_\_\_ \$400(\$200),

A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

Charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

\$950(\$475), \_\_\_\_ \$1510(\$755) is due and paid herewith.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this submission or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Reg. No. 27,213

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